

Proposed Revisions to CALFED Preferred Alternative ("CALFED Program Decision")

CONVEYANCE

The Preferred Program Alternative employs a through-Delta approach to conveyance. Modifications in Delta conveyance will result in improved water supply reliability, protection and improvement of Delta water quality, improvements in ecosystem health, and reduced risk of supply disruption due to catastrophic breaching of Delta levees. The proposed through-Delta conveyance facility actions include:

- Construction of a new screened intake at Clifton Court Forebay with protective screening criteria.
- Construction of either a new screened diversion at Tracy with protective screening criteria and/or an expansion of the new diversion at Clifton Court Forebay to meet the Tracy Pumping Plant export capacity.

- Implementation of the Joint Point of Diversion for the SWP and CVP, and construction of interties.
- Construction of an operable barrier at the head of Old River to improve conditions for salmon migrating up and down the San Joaquin River.
- Construction of operable barriers taking into account fisheries, water quality, and water stage needs in the south Delta.
- Operational changes to the SWP operating rules to allow export pumping up to the current physical capacity of the SWP export facilities.

~~Study and evaluate a screened diversion structure on the Sacramento River (or equivalent water quality actions) as a measure to improve drinking water quality in the event that the Water Quality Program measures do not result in adequate improvements toward CALFED's drinking water quality goals. This evaluation would consider how to operate the Delta Cross Channel in conjunction with this new diversion structure to improve drinking water quality, while maintaining fish recovery.~~

~~If the Water Quality Program measures are consistently not achieving drinking water quality goals, and the evaluation demonstrates that a screened diversion of up to 4,000 cfs would help achieve those goals without adversely affecting fish populations, a pilot screened diversion would be constructed. This pilot would likely include a fish screen, pumps, and a channel between the Sacramento and Mokelumne Rivers. The design, size, and operating rules for this pilot facility would include an analysis of impacts to upstream and downstream migrating fish, as well as impacts from habitat shifts resulting from increased flows in the eastern Delta on Delta species. Following evaluation of the pilot facility operations, a final decision would be made on whether the diversion channel and structure should continue to be used and, if so, what the operational rules and optimum size of the diversion should be.~~

- Study and evaluate a screened diversion structure on the Sacramento River at Hood with a range of diversion capacities up to 4,000 cfs as a measure to improve drinking water quality in the event that the Water Quality Program measures do not result in adequate improvements toward CALFED drinking water goals. The Hood diversion would likely include a fish screen, pumps, and a channel between the Sacramento and Mokelumne Rivers. The Hood diversion is a contingent action to be considered only after three separate assessments are satisfactorily completed: first, a thorough assessment of Delta Cross Channel operation strategies, and confirmation of continued concern over water quality impacts from Delta Cross Channel operations; second, a thorough evaluation of the technical viability of a Hood diversion facility; and third, satisfactory resolution of the substantial fisheries impacts concerns about a diversion facility. The results of these evaluations will be shared with the Delta Drinking Water Council and the expert panel evaluating fish impacts of Delta conveyance. If these evaluations demonstrate that a Hood diversion facility is necessary to address drinking water quality concerns and can be constructed without adversely affecting fish populations, it will be constructed as a part of the Preferred Program Alternative in Stage II.

- Construct new setback levees, dredge and/or improve existing levees along the channels of the lower Mokelumne River system from Interstate 5 downstream to the San Joaquin River.

The Preferred Program Alternative also includes a process for determining the conditions under which any additional conveyance facilities and/or other water management actions would be taken in the future. The process would include:

- An evaluation of how water suppliers can best provide a level of public health protection equivalent to Delta source water quality of 50 ppb bromide and 3 ppm TOC.

- An evaluation based on two independent expert panels' reports—one on CALFED's progress toward these measurable water quality goals and the second on CALFED's progress toward ecosystem restoration objectives, with particular emphasis on fisheries recovery.